

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or	)	
	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of	)	
	)	SUSPENSION
Susanne T. Baxter	)	
	)	
Certificate 146660	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 11, 2006. On July 21, 2006, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Susanne T. Baxter a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 146660 by regular and certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery. Upon receipt of that letter, Ms. Baxter requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed through legal counsel to waive her right to a hearing and to accept a three-year suspension of her certificate, with the understanding that she has initiated substance abuse treatment. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to order the suspension of Ms. Baxter's certificate, under the agreed upon terms as outlined in this Order.

Susanne  
T. Baxter,  
Certificate  
146660

Initial Here

Date

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Baxter holds a South Carolina certificate with over twenty-seven years of teaching experience. During the 2005-06 school year, Ms. Baxter was employed by the Charleston County School District, assigned as an Art teacher at James Island Charter High School. The District terminated Ms. Baxter's employment on April 4, 2006, for failing to report narcotics on campus and for testing positive for cocaine.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Baxter’s certificate retroactively from August 1, 2006, through July 31, 2009. If Ms. Baxter wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must make a written request to the Department’s Office of General Counsel. In addition to the written request, Ms. Baxter must submit verification from a licensed substance abuse treatment professional that she has successfully completed a drug abuse treatment program and she must submit a current drug screen report clear of unlawful substances. Prior to reinstatement, Ms. Baxter also will be required to appear before the State Board for a character fitness review.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac

Joe Isaac

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

October 11, 2006

I, Susanne T. Baxter, S.C. Educator Certificate 146660 do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on October 11, 2006.

/S/ Susanne T. Baxter  
Susanne T. Baxter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date